

The decision of Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to air a slanderous anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is an example of the clear dangers of media consolidation. Stations are no longer free to report the news as it happens. They must report the news as the station owners say it's happening.

Because Sinclair can use the public airwaves free of charge, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Sinclair wants to keep the present administration to remain in control and will do anything to achieve that goal. A Republican administration guarantees more profits for Sinclair.

Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.